

To: Strausbaugh, Dan[Strausbaugh.Dan@epa.gov]; Poulet, Chris[Poulet.Chris@epa.gov]; john.gibbons@hhs.gov[john.gibbons@hhs.gov]; Sturrock, Kenneth (OS/ASPR/OEM)[Kenneth.Sturrock@hhs.gov]
From: Pinheiro, Ronald (OS/ASPR/OEM)
Sent: Sat 8/8/2015 7:02:37 PM
Subject: FW: URGENT -- Mine Dam Failure Affecting CO, AZ and NM

FYI ... from IHS concerning the Southern Ute Tribe

Ron

Ron Pinheiro

CAPT, US Public Health Service

ASPR Regional Administrator

HHS Region 8

303-844-7273 o / 303-563-9400 c

From: Mahon, John (IHS/HQ) [mailto:John.Mahon@ihs.gov]
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 11:46 AM
To: Pinheiro, Ronald (OS/ASPR/OEM); Cote, Mick (OS/ASPR/OEM)
Cc: Hroch, Brian E. (IHS/ALB); Helton, Sherri L. (IHS/NAV); Woodlee, Charles David (IHS/NAV); Carter, Gary W (IHS/ALB)
Subject: FW: URGENT -- Mine Dam Failure Affecting CO, AZ and NM

FYSA – And, encourage all to keep each other on the to or cc: lines for updates on this and future events. Thank you ... hope all are well and get some rest this weekend. Skip

From: Hroch, Brian E. (IHS/ALB)
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 12:07 AM
To: Mahon, John (IHS/HQ) <John.Mahon@ihs.gov>; Woodlee, Charles David (IHS/NAV) <Charles.Woodlee@ihs.gov>; Helton, Sherri L. (IHS/NAV) <sherri.helton@ihs.gov>
Cc: Karol, Susan (IHS/HQ) <Susan.Karol@ihs.gov>; Grinnell, Richie K (IHS/HQ) <Richie.Grinnell@ihs.gov>; Eisenman, Theresa (IHS/HQ) <Theresa.Eisenman@ihs.gov>; Ehrhardt, Britt L (IHS/HQ) <Britt.Ehrhardt@ihs.gov>; Hartz, Gary J. (IHS/HQ) <Gary.Hartz@ihs.gov>; Gardner, Randall J. (IHS/HQ) <Randall.Gardner@ihs.gov>; Taylor,

Kelly (IHS/HQ) <Kelly.Taylor@ihs.gov>; Hubbard, John (IHS/NAV) <John.Hubbard@ihs.gov>; Pederson, Russel (IHS/ALB) <Russel.Pederson@ihs.gov>; Thomas, Leonard (IHS/ALB) <Leonard.Thomas@ihs.gov>; McMahon, David (IHS/HQ) <David.McMahon@ihs.gov>; Carter, Gary W (IHS/ALB) <Gary.Carter@ihs.gov>; 'Gurule, Kathi' <kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov> <kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov>; Grabowski, Debra (IHS/ALB) <Debra.Grabowski@ihs.gov>; Dickson, Jeff (IHS/ALB) <Jeff.Dickson@ihs.gov>; Bernido, Alyssa (IHS/ALB) <Alyssa.Bernido@ihs.gov>

Subject: Re: URGENT -- Mine Dam Failure Affecting CO, AZ and NM

Good Evening Skip,

Ms. Kathi Gurule, Southern Ute Tribe Risk Manager/Emergency Manager promptly replied to my e-mail as well as also called me earlier this evening. I will do my best to summarize her detailed reporting of this situation. Ms. Gurule is cc'ed on this e-mail for her information and in case any clarification is needed.

Bottom line up front: The Southern Ute Tribe does not currently have any unmet needs. The impact to the Southern Ute and their interests is to be determined, pending additional information, such as analytical results of the water samples.

The Southern Ute Tribe is in good communication with the EPA representative for the incident, as well as the La Plata County Emergency Manager. While the Southern Ute Tribe is awaiting analytical results, the tribe has also been in active communication through other meetings, such as with the EPA and press meetings. The tribe's notification to their members has been very proactive through notifying residents by written posted messages, Facebook posts, posts on their tribal websites, in-person notifications and even a hotline to address questions and concerns related to this release to the Animas River. The tribe will be performing their own water sampling, specifically for the 15 tribal residences within 1/2 mile of the Animas River. Upon request and in lieu of analytical results, they have also offered to test additional wells at a greater distance from the river. The tribe was informed by the EPA that the EPA was providing authorization to the tribe for analytical testing. Ms. Gurule offered to provide more details of the analytical method. This analytical method, not the analytical results, may be distributed by Ms. Gurule as soon as tomorrow. As may be seen in the media, official release of the analytical results are pending.

An offer was made to bring in trucks containing drinking water, but this offer did not seem necessary at this time. As such, Ms. Gurule reported that currently there were not

any unmet needs or immediately observed impacts to the tribe's interest. I requested to please be updated if there unmet needs or observed impacts to tribal interests. Purely as an observation, the tribe does have some caged fish along the river, which do appear to be unaffected by this release.

Although the Albuquerque Area IHS staff have not received any media inquiries, the Albuquerque Area staff on this distribution are aware of Public Affairs requirements before communicating with the media.

Please note that this reply was just to the IHS recipients, as well as Ms. Gurule.

Additional updates will provided as they are received. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

CAPT Brian Hroch, MPH, CIH, CSP, REHS
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From: Hroch, Brian E. (IHS/ALB)
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 6:12 PM
To: Mahon, John (IHS/HQ); Woodlee, Charles David (IHS/NAV); Helton, Sherri L. (IHS/NAV)
Cc: Karol, Susan (IHS/HQ); Grinnell, Richie K (IHS/HQ); Eisenman, Theresa (IHS/HQ); Ehrhardt, Britt L (IHS/HQ); Hartz, Gary J. (IHS/HQ); Gardner, Randall J. (IHS/HQ); Taylor, Kelly (IHS/HQ); 'HHS.SOC@HHS.GOV'; Hubbard, John (IHS/NAV); Pederson, Russel (IHS/ALB); Thomas, Leonard (IHS/ALB); 'milo.booth@fema.dhs.gov'; McMahon, David (IHS/HQ); 'sid.caesar@bia.gov'; Carter, Gary W (IHS/ALB)
Subject: Re: URGENT -- Mine Dam Failure Affecting CO, AZ and NM

Good Evening Skip,

I will reach out to the Southern Ute Tribe for a status report as the Animas River does pass through Southern Ute Land. I will provide an update as soon as I receive a reply. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information in the meantime.

Brian Hroch
505-350-4713
Sent from my BlackBerry

From: Mahon, John (IHS/HQ)
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 05:57 PM
To: Hroch, Brian E. (IHS/ALB); Woodlee, Charles David (IHS/NAV); Helton, Sherri L. (IHS/NAV)
Cc: Karol, Susan (IHS/HQ); Grinnell, Richie K (IHS/HQ); Eisenman, Theresa (IHS/HQ); Ehrhardt, Britt L (IHS/HQ); Hartz, Gary J. (IHS/HQ); Gardner, Randall J. (IHS/HQ); Taylor, Kelly (IHS/HQ); HHS.SOC@HHS.GOV <HHS.SOC@HHS.GOV>; Hubbard, John (IHS/NAV); Pederson, Russel (IHS/ALB); Thomas, Leonard (IHS/ALB); Booth, Milo (milo.booth@fema.dhs.gov) <milo.booth@fema.dhs.gov>; McMahon, David (IHS/HQ); Sid Caesar (sid.caesar@bia.gov) <sid.caesar@bia.gov>
Subject: URGENT -- Mine Dam Failure Affecting CO, AZ and NM

For EMPOCs ... please provide soonest status reports of impact to IHS/Tribal concerns in the affected locations, requests for support, unmet needs, and then please continue to report through the weekend and as the situation evolves.

For All ... FYSA.

- EPA inspection and work on a mine dam at the Gold King Mine, Aztec, AZ, [near Silverton, Colorado], resulted in a breach of the containment facility, and subsequent release of ~1-million gallons mine tailings, including an orange sludge, that is now traveling down the Animas River at ~3mph.
- o Tribal Nations along the River will likely be affected by the release, but the degree of impact and risk is not yet clear.
- o There were no injuries as a result of the dam breach, and none reported [as yet] resulting from the release/effluent itself.
- o Contaminants are thought to be primarily oxidized iron, but EPA preliminary analysis [unconfirmed] reports that lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals are/may also be in the contaminants; concentrations and risk to public health is not yet known, but is part of the ongoing assessment.
- See attached pictures, and below links for additional information.

- EPA, State and local health officials are sampling the water and conducting additional testing; there is no current projection of when results will be available for public release.
 - All water intakes along the river have been closed to ensure safety of the public and the utility system servicing them.
 - o EPA has stated they do not anticipate any significant risk to the public health and safety, given the closure of the river intakes, but cannot comment yet on the impact to the river, wildlife, domestic animal, vegetation, fishing or economy in the affected areas.
 - EPA, State/Local/Tribal Governments and Health Departments, and the media, have issued public messaging on the event from inception of the crisis.
 - o Residents along the River have been advised to not swim, fish, or otherwise use the water in the affected areas, and are to keep livestock and pets away from it until further notice.
 - o Safe potable water is being supplied to communities via various distribution centers, that are not connected to the River.

Related open source information cites.

<http://www.koat.com/news/farmington-protecting-water-after-dam-breach/34575358>

<http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2015/08/07/epa-officials-confirm-contaminants--animas-river/31308871/>

Will advise as more information becomes available.

Thank you. Skip